



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

GYMNASTICS TEACHER PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORN CHARGES *Prince William County man linked to international child pornography investigation*

MANASSAS, Va. — A former Prince William County gymnastics teacher pleaded guilty Tuesday to child pornography-related charges following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Christopher Andrew Brown, 34, of Manassas, was prosecuted by the Virginia Commonwealth's Attorney for Prince William County for one count of possession of obscene material.

Acting on leads generated from an investigation into a Belarus-based Internet company that processed payments for and operated child pornography Web sites, ICE agents executed two simultaneous search warrants at Brown's business and residence in June. Agents discovered various child pornography images and seized three computers used by Brown. ICE forensic analysis of Brown's computers uncovered more than 100 images of child pornography, many of which included images of known victims.

Following the searches, Brown left town for Milwaukee. He was indicted in absentia in Sept., and was subsequently arrested in Wisconsin by the Milwaukee Police Department. ICE agents extradited Brown to Virginia Oct. 29.

Brown was sentenced at his pleading to a one year suspended sentence, minus the one-month he was held in jail. In addition, Brown is required to serve under supervised probation for two years, subject to the following conditions:

- He is not allowed to have unsupervised contact of any kind with minors;
- He may not work in the field of gymnastics;
- He must undergo a mental health evaluation, and
- He is subject to search of his home computers at any time.

Immediately following the guilty plea, Brown was arrested by Prince William County Police Department detectives for embezzlement, credit card fraud and false pretenses. The evidence that led to his arrest on those charges was uncovered by local authorities after they became aware of the federal investigation.

The arrest is part of ICE's Operation Predator, a nationwide initiative to protect children from criminal alien sex offenders, child sex tourists, Internet child pornographers, and human traffickers. Since Operation Predator began in July 2003, more than 5,400 individuals have been arrested in the U.S., including 61 in Virginia and 115 in Wisconsin. The investigation into the Belarus-based company has resulted in more than 190 of the Operation Predator arrests and an additional 1,000 arrests by foreign law enforcement acting on information provided by ICE.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at www.ice.gov.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or www.cybertipline.com.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.